

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 06545 01 OF 02 140710Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-10 FRB-03 NEA-10
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /156 W
-----088059 140720Z /14

R 131420Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 354
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 6545

USEEC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WARSAW 06545 01 OF 02 140710Z

EO 11652N/A

TAGS: EFIX, XL

SUBJ: WARSAW MEETING OF FISHERIES MINISTERS OF BALTIC COUNTRIES

REF: A. BRUSSELS 11308, B. BRUSSELS 11054, C. STOCKHOLM 3856

1. SUMMARY: FISHERIES MINISTERS FROM COUNTRIES SIGNATORY

TO THE GDANSK CONVENTION MET IN WARSAW SEPTEMBER 6-7 TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF SWEDEN'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A 200 MILE FISHING ZONE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE BALTIC SEA. THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO AGREE ON AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE AND APPARENTLY MADE LITTLE PROGRESS ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS. ACCORDING SOURCES FROM OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES THE MINISTERS DID AGREE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BALTIC COMMISSION AND TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING OF MINISTERS IN DECEMBER TO TRY TO REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING ON FISHING QUESTIONS. THE EC WAS REPRESENTED AT THE SEPTEMBER 6-7 MEETINGS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE EC WILL HAVE ANY ON-GOING ROLE IN FUTURE WORK ON THIS SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH ECONOMIC OFFICERS OF THE SWEDISH AND DANISH EMBASSIES CONCERNING THE SEPTEMBER 6-7 MEETING OF FISHERIES MINISTERS, WHICH WAS CHAIRED BY POLISH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE JERZY OLSZEWSKI. THEY SAID THAT, DESPITE LATE NIGHT DRAFTING SESSIONS, THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE. THE SWEDES SAID HE WAS AMUSED THAT THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE PARTICIPATION OF THE EC IN THE MEETINGS HAD DISTRACTED SO MUCH ATTENTION FROM THE QUESTION OF SWEDEN'S DECLARATION OF A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, THESE SOURCES SAID THE EC WAS REPRESENTED AT THE MEETINGS UNDER ITS OWN NAME TAG, BUT THAT THE ROLE OF THE EC IN ANY ON GOING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 06545 01 OF 02 140710Z

WORKING GROUPS HAD NOT BEEN DEERMINED. AS PART OF THE COMPROMISE PERMITTING EC PARTICIPATION, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE "JOINT COMMITTEE OF FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" (PRESUMABLY THOSE WITHOUT SHORELINE ON THE BALTIC) WAS ACCORDED EQUAL STANDING WITH THE EC. (COMMENT: THE POLISH PRESS DOWN-PLAYED THE ROLE OF THE EC IN THE MEETINGS, LISTING THE COMMUNITY AS LAST AMONG "OTHERS ATTENDING THE MEETING," RATHER THAN AS AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION. END COMMENT). THEY SAID THE SOVIETS REGARD THE BALTIC AS A CLOSED AREA WHICH SHOULD BE REGULATED ONLY BY THOSE COUNTRIES WITH BALTIC SHORELINE WHICH WERE ALREADY PARTIES TO THE GDANSK CONVENTION. OUR SOURCES SAID THE SOVIETS HAD YIELDED GROUND BEGRUDGINGLY ON THE MATTER OF EC PARTICIPATION IN THE TALKS AND THAT THE QUESTION WAS FAR FROM SETTLED FOR THE FUTURE.

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 06545 02 OF 02 140659Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 WARSAW 6545

USEEC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 06545 02 OF 02 140659Z

3. THESE OFFICERS SAID THAT VIRTUALLY ALL THE PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A WORKING
GROUP UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE BALTIC COMMISSION, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN
MEETINGS IN WARSAW ON SEPTEMBER 6., AND OF HOLDING ANOTHER MEETING
OF MINISTERS IN DECEMBER TO RATIFY THE WORK OF THIS GROUP. THEY
SAID MINISTER OLSZEWSKI HAD OFFERED TO HOST THE LATTER MEETING
IN WARSAW, BUT NO DATE WAS SUGGESTED.

4. IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE SWEDISH DCM AND OTHER SWEDISH EMBASSY OFFICERS, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE SWEDISH DELEGATION WAS PUT TO TASK EARLY IN THE MEETINGS FOR SWEDEN'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A 200 MILE FISHING ZONE. THEY SAID THE OTHER DELEGATIONS BEGAN BY INSISTING ON A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD TO GOVERN FISHING ON THE AREA UNTIL SATISFACTORY MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE QUESTION COULD BE REACHED. THEY SAID THAT MINISTER DAHLGREN STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD HAD ALREADY BEGUN AND THAT IT WOULD LAST UNTIL EXACTLY JANUARY 1, 1978, IN SO FAR AS IT AFFECTED FISHING IN WATERS WITHIN THE SWEDISH ZONE. THEY SAID THAT, AFTER THIS INITIAL GRILLING, SWEDEN'S RIGHT TO EXTEND ITS FISHING ZONE WAS NOT CHALLENGED.

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, THE SWEDES SAID THE "WORKING GROUP" TO BE ESTABLISHED WOULD BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH ELABORATING WAYS IN WHICH THE EXTENSION OF FISHING ZONES COULD BE MADE CONSISTENT WITH A MODIFIED BALTIC CONVENTION AND WITH ESTABLISHING NEW CRITERIA FOR THE OPERATION OF THE BALTIC COMMISSION. THEY SAID SWEDEN HAD ALREADY MADE CLEAR THAT FOREIGN COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FISHING IN THE SWEDISH ZONE UNDER GOS REGULATION. THEY SAID MINISTER DAHLGREN HAD IN FACT PROPOSED THAT THE BALTIC COMMISSION CONTINUE TO HAVE SOME ROLE IN SETTING OVERALL FISHING LIMITS WHICH WOULD THEN BE IMPLEMENTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 06545 02 OF 02 140659Z

IN A COORDINATED WAY, AND, THROUGH AS COMMON A SET OF PROCEDURES AS POSSIBLE, BY THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THEIR FISHING ZONES. THEY SAID THAT ANY DISPUTES OVER THE DELINIATION OF SWEDEN'S ZONE WOULD BE HANDLED BILATERALLY, SUCH AS WAS BEING DONE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, AND WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BALTIC COMMISSION.

6. COMMENT: OUR SOURCES HAVE SAID THERE ARE AS "MANY OPINIONS ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS MINISTERIAL MEETING AS THERE WERE DELEGATIONS." WE HOPE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AFTER TALKING WITH OUR CONTACTS AT THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE. END COMMENT.
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